



MHOS NEWSLETTER

MHOS is an Affiliated Organization of the American Orchid Society

www.mhos.us.com

February 2011

Meetings

The Mid-Hudson Orchid Society meets the 2nd Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Union Presbyterian Church at the corner of Balmville Road and Beech Street in Newburgh (Balmville), NY

Bring your blooming orchids for the show table.

2011 Meeting Dates

February 13 – AOS slide show "Miniature Orchid Species"

March 12 (Saturday) – Spring Show and Sale

April 10 – Extended show table and judging

May 1 (a week early due to Mother's Day) – speaker Carri Raven-Riemann, The OrchidPhile

June 12 - Wayne Roberts of Robert's Flower Supply, speaking on cypripediums and native orchids that can be grown here in our northeast gardens.

July – no meeting

August – no meeting

September 11

October 15 (Saturday) – Show and Sale

November 13

December 11 – Pot Luck Holiday Dinner

February 13 meeting: "Miniature Orchid Species"

Our February program will be a slide show from the AOS that is an introduction to the many smaller-growing members of the orchid family – a great program for those with only limited space who feel they cannot grow orchids.

MHOS March Show & Sale

Please help us spread the word - print out some show flyers from the MHOS website and distribute them to help publicize the show. It'll take your mind off winter!

New Member Mentoring

Have you recently joined MHOS and feel you need a little help? We've initiated a new member mentoring program where experienced growers make themselves available to assist with questions and help to solve problems that new members might encounter. One such experienced member who has already volunteered is Isabel Lopatin (they don't call her Iz the Wiz for nothin'). Anyone interested in such help (or mentoring), please contact Elisabeth Mansfield.



Hudson Valley GARDEN CALENDAR

There is a new website for local gardeners – www.hvgardencalendar.com – that lists gardening events all over our area, and it is a great site for MHOS to promote ourselves. Laura Wilson, who launched the website, has included upcoming MHOS events. The site allows for visitors to post comments about MHOS – our meetings or shows. So please check it out and tell your gardening friends about it.

MHOS Classifieds

Downsizing greenhouse. Orchids for sale. Located in New Paltz, Ulster County. Contact John & Rita Rashak at (845) 256-3868 johnrashak@aol.com; ritarashak@aol.com.

MHOS Supplies List

The list of supplies that we carry and the prices have been updated and are now posted on our website. We are arranging for more vendors and hope to be able to reduce prices further, once we get a better handle on the volume of supplies that our members need. If there is something that is not on the list that you would like us to carry, please contact Carolyn Sanders or Elisabeth Mansfield.

How Do I Get My Orchid to Bloom Again?

By Carol Allen, Orchid Specialist

I was in an upscale nursery the other day and overheard two women talking....

"Oh my gosh! Look how beautiful those orchids are!" one woman gushed to her companion.

Her friend replied, "I always kill them. How do you suppose people do it?"

"Kill them?"

"No, get them to bloom again!"

Never one to be shy, I broke in on their conversation. You see, I am passionate about orchids and take great delight in turning orchid killers into orchid growers. Blooming orchids? EASY! as one, two, three!

Start with the right orchid for your conditions. The most common orchid found in nurseries and stores is the Moth Orchid (Phalaenopsis). Fortunately this is one of the most responsive orchids to grow on a windowsill.

Number one: Sunlight! Growing and blooming Moth Orchids need direct sun. An east-facing window that receives one to two hours of direct sun is perfect. Filtered (like through a sheer curtain) south or west will also work, but you want to bathe the plant in very, very bright light for at least half of the day. If you have low-e glass, south or west is probably preferred. The light should be bright enough on a sunny day to make you squint. *(continued on page 2)*

MHOS Officers & Volunteers 2011

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Elisabeth Mansfield
845-294-1000

*Vice President **
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845-343-2901

*Membership Secretary **
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* MHOS Officers
Other positions
are volunteer

Here is this month's contribution by MHOS member **John J. Rashak**:



The care of orchids varies by the season. In winter, resting orchids should be allowed to remain dry, with an occasional watering should a pseudobulb shrivel. Flower spikes should be protected from hungry slugs and snails. Nighttime temperatures should be checked during cold spells, as cold and damp conditions will encourage fungal spores to grow, especially on flowers.

In spring, start to water the orchids on a regular basis, and add some fertilizer during every third watering. Increase the shading and humidity in a greenhouse environment. Check for insect pests more often. Repot orchids when necessary.

In summer, watch out for excessive heat. It might be wise to move some orchids out of the greenhouse and into a shady location. Keep the orchids well watered and add fertilizer during every other watering. Remove old flower spikes when the flowers have withered. Check for slugs and snails and other insect pests. Spray the leaves of the orchids left in the greenhouse and be generous with shade and humidity.

In autumn, move outdoor orchids into the greenhouse before the first frost occurs and after checking these orchids for pests. Remove shade gradually and repot young seedlings when necessary. Remove discarded leaves and gradually reduce the amount of watering, allowing orchids to dry out between waterings.

Pests like slugs and snails are more likely to be encountered in a humid greenhouse than in a home, where conditions are likely to be drier and a pest like the red spider mite is more likely to be found. In any case, when removing aphids from buds, take care not to break any buds as the flowers emanating from the buds may be disfigured. Also, be aware that aphids secrete a sticky honeydew, which can lead to a sooty mold on an orchid's leaves.

How Do I Get My Orchid to Bloom Again?

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Number two: Proper watering. Always make sure your orchid is in a container that drains. Standing in water – in the bottom of a cache pot, saucer, or in pebbles – is a no-no! Florist presentations in glass cubes or bowls are recipes for disaster, and the plant rarely lives to see a second blooming unless soon repotted into a pot with drainage holes.

Proper watering is a two-step technique. First you need to identify the type of potting medium, and second you need to apply a sufficient quantity of water so the potting medium is adequately moistened. The type of potting medium makes a tremendous difference in how often you water your orchid. "Once a week no matter what" is NOT correct!

Most Moth Orchids found in stores today are potted in a golden, mossy substance, a species of tropical sphagnum moss. When properly potted, it is nearly a perfect growing environment, but watering is a bit tricky. You must allow the top half-inch (in a 5" – 6" diameter pot) to go crunchy dry and I mean really, really crunchy dry. The top of the moss will no longer be soft and in the typical home, ten to fourteen days will have gone by, and that's okay. (continued on pg 3)

Inclement weather

In case of inclement weather, it is possible our regular meeting could be cancelled. If this happens, the officers will notify a few volunteers who offered to accept calls from the membership to relay this information.

These volunteers do not call anyone, they will just stand by their phones to accept calls from other members who want to know if the meeting will be held. In bad weather, call any of these members:

Ruth Nattras (845) 343-2901
Dennis Sandberg (914) 962-1541
Holly Read (845) 855-1842



Winter Sale

Now through
Monday, February 14

**20% off all plants &
supplies!**

1460 Route 22, Brewster, NY
800-362-3612

Venamy@OrchidsUSA.com

Other Area Societies

1st Sunday

Central NY – Syracuse

www.cnyos.org

1st Sunday-1 pm

Northeastern Pennsylvania Society – Lakeville, PA

1st Tuesday – 7:30pm

Pinelands Orchid Society – Medford, NJ

pinelandsorchidsociety.org

1st Saturday

North Eastern New York – Albany/Colonie, NY

www.nenyos.org

2nd Tuesday

Greater Westchester – White Plains, NY

2nd Tuesday

Deep Cut – Tinton Falls, NJ

www.deepcutorchids.com

2nd Wednesday

Manhattan, NY

www.manhattanorchid.com

2nd Wednesday

Connecticut – Hartford or New Haven

www.ctorchids.org

2nd Thursday

North Jersey – East Hanover

www.njorchids.org

2nd Thursday

Long Island – Valley Stream

3rd Sunday

Southern Tier – Binghamton, NY

www.storchidsociety.com

3rd Tuesday

Staten Island, NY

www.siosonline.com

3rd Wednesday

Matinecock - Oyster Bay, NY

3rd Wednesday

Greater NY – Bronx, NY

www.gnyos.org

3rd Thursday

Ramapo, NJ

www.ramapoorchid.org

4th Tuesday

Jersey Highlands Society – Augusta, NJ

jheydel@optonline.net

Check for date changes. Many do not meet in July or August

How Do I Get My Orchid to Bloom Again?

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If your potted orchid is in a coarse bark material that looks something like mulch, then watering every 5 – 7 days is good. Unfortunately it is very difficult to tell whether this type of medium is wet or dry. You will have to remember when you watered last and while the medium is great for growing in the greenhouse, it is not so great for growing in the home.

Sometimes Moth Orchids are potted in a combination of fine peat moss and bark chips. In this combination, when it is dry to the touch one half inch deep, it is time to water.

Water thoroughly and deeply. Take the potted orchid to the sink and allow a moderate stream of tepid water to run through the pot. Run the water around the entire surface of the medium. Continue to allow the water to run for a full minute by the clock. The pot will have gone from relatively light in weight to profoundly heavy. If in doubt, run more water into the potting medium. Allow to drain for a few minutes and then return it to the windowsill. Blot out the center where the leaves join so there is no standing water there either.

Number three: Re-potting! As soon as it is out of bloom it needs to be re-potted! Production facilities produce orchids that are appealing to the customer's eye, so plants come to market overgrown in their pots and are sold to be admired for a few weeks or months and then thrown out, just like poinsettias and florist mums.

When you buy your new orchid the potting medium will already be composted and degraded. Orchids complicate matters further by being very sensitive to salt build-up in the medium. The salts, from fertilizers and regular tap water, prevent normal root growth and burn existing roots. Therefore, it is imperative to repot your new orchid as soon as it is out of bloom.

"That sounds so ominous! If orchids are so delicate, why should I even attempt to grow them?"

Because they are not delicate, they are tough customers that will survive even poor conditions! But you want them to not just survive, but grow bigger and bloom every year! And that is as simple as one, two, three!

Events in the Northeast

February 10th to 13th – Deep Cut Orchid Society Show, Dearborn Market, 2170 Route 35, Holmdel, NJ. Faye Arnett (732) 786-8583 farnett@gmail.com

February 11th to 13th – New Hampshire Orchid Society Show, Radisson Hotel, 11 Tara Blvd, Nashua, NH. Jean Hallstone (603) 880-0404 jhallstone@yahoo.com.

February 12th & 13th – Southern Ontario Orchid Society Show, Toronto Botanical Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E, Toronto, Ontario. Tom Atkinson (416) 449-7907 asimina@sympatico.ca

February 19th – National Capital Orchid Society Paphiopedilum Forum, Beltsville, MD. Bill & Lynn Goldner (410) 286-2664 woodstream@chesapeake.net.

February 24th to 27th – 30th Annual Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Connecticut Convention Center, 100 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, CT. (860) 844-8461 www.ctflowershow.com

February 26th & 27th – Amherst Orchid Society Show, Smith Vocational School, Locust St, Route 9, Northampton, MA. Harold Norman (413) 267-5124; Leilani.norman@verizon.net.

March 4th to 7th – "Escape to Spring" Gardening Expo, Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Rd, North Branford, CT. (203) 488-2110 www.vanwilgens.com

March 5th to 13th – Philadelphia International Flower Show "Springtime in Paris", Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, PA. 215-988-8899 www.theflowershow.com.

March 11th to 13th – Maryland Orchid Society Show, Timonium Fairgrounds, 2200 York Rd., Timonium, MD. William Scharf (410) 456-1794 willworks@hughes.net.

March 19th & 20th – Orchid Society of Western Pennsylvania Show, Phipps Garden Center, 1059 Shady Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. Charles VanDyke cvandyke@andrew.cmu.edu.

March 25th to 27th – Southeastern Pennsylvania Orchid Society Show, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA. Mary Beth Clarke mcrna2go@aol.com.

Orchid events around the country can be found in the AOS magazine *Orchids* or on the AOS website at www.aos.org/aos/events. Check before traveling to see if there may be a local orchid event at your destination. For Hudson Valley gardening events, see www.HVgardencalendar.com.

AOS Judging

The Northeast Judging Center holds two monthly orchid judging sessions:

1st Saturday of each month at Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA. New contact for directions: Robert Winkley (617) 282-7351.

3rd Saturday of each month at Hampton Inn, 200 Tarrytown-White Plains Rd (Rt. 119), Elmsford, NY (at I-287, exit 1). Slides or presentations at 10am, judging begins around 12pm; bring your lunch.

For further information, contact Rita Cohen at 516-374-6426 or orchart@optonline.net

Supplies

If you would like supplies brought to an MHOS meeting, please call Carolyn Sanders before Friday preceding the meeting at 917-774-1018.

For a list of supplies and prices, refer to the Members section of our web site: www.mhos.us.com/supplies.html.

Supplies purchased through MHOS are at very reasonable prices.

Directions to AOS Judging at the Hampton Inn in Elmsford

FROM ORANGE, ULSTER COUNTIES, NEWBURGH, KINGSTON:

South on the NYS Thruway, to I-287 East (toward White Plains), go over the Tappan Zee Bridge. Continue on Thruway to second exit: Exit 8 – Cross Westchester Expressway (Route 287 East). Take 287 East to first exit on your right – Exit 1. Take the fork on your right to Elmsford. At the end of the ramp, turn right on Route 119. Hampton Inn is on your left.

FROM NORTHERN WESTCHESTER, PUTNAM, DUTCHESS COUNTIES: South on I-684, to Cross Westchester Expressway Route I-287 West. Stay on 287 West to Exit 1, make left turn at light – Hampton Inn is a short distance on right. OR South on Taconic Parkway to South/West Sawmill to I-287 West to Exit 1, make left turn at light – Hampton Inn is a short distance on right. OR South on Route 9 to 9A to Route 119 Elmsford, NY, turn right on Route 119, go about 2-3 long blocks. See Hampton Inn on left.

Mid-Hudson Orchid Society

6624 Gospen, NY
218 Greenwich Avenue
c/o Elisabeth Mansfield

